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SUBJECT 1. Training in the Soviet Army
2. Miscellaneous Military Information
3. Additional T/O & E Data

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SOURCE

A. GARRISON TRAINING

1. In the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., training was divided into five separate phases as follows:

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a. Winter training, 1 Dec. to 1 or 15 Apr. each year.

- (1) Explanations and discussions of manuals and regulations
- (2) Physical conditioning

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- (3) Basic instruction in close order drill
- (4) Bayonet training
- (5) Triangulation dry firing exercises
- (6) Nomenclature, assembly and disassembly of individual weapons
- (7) Political orientation
- (8) Range firing of three rounds with the carbine or 10 rounds with a submachine gun.
Time spent on each subject and a schedule of instruction was unknown [redacted]

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b. Inspection phase: 15 to 20 Apr., each year.

This consisted of an inspection by officers from Hq., 95th Gds. Rifle Div. and Central Group Forces. They inspected the status of preparedness of the personnel based on the subjects covered during the winter training period. Questions were asked by these officers of the men during demonstrations on the above mentioned subjects, and examinations were conducted on firing and political understanding.

c. Summer training in maneuver areas: 1 May to 15 Oct., each year.

In the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. summer training was conducted on platoon and company level due to the border guard responsibility of the regiment. [redacted]

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[redacted] The following personnel were exempt from summer training: drivers, communications personnel, cooks, company clerks, supply clerks, and medical corpsmen. [redacted] no further information on summer training.

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d. Inspection after summer training: 15 Oct. to 1 Nov., each year.

This inspection was conducted by general and field grade officers from MOSCOW and Central Group Forces. They inspected the proficiency of the members of the 3rd Bn. 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., in close order drill, interior guard duty, small arms firing, squad and platoon tactics, and political knowledge. Communications personnel connected with radio work were not inspected for proficiency at this period by the inspection teams but were sent to an "assembly" (Sbor) at the Regt1. Sig. Co., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., in MAUER OEHLING.

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- e. Clean up and preparation for next year's training: 1 Nov. to 1 Dec., each year.

This period was utilized for housekeeping and maintenance activities. Barracks were repaired, grounds were policed, targets were repaired, training mock-ups were constructed, latrines were dug, etc.

2. [redacted] had very little training during his three years of service (March 50 - June 53). He fired no weapon other than his personal side-arm, the M-1944 Mossin-Nagant carbine. He did not participate in marches, bivouacs, simulated attacks, maneuvers, or classroom instruction other than political indoctrination and signal training.

[redacted]

secondary. The regiment did not go into summer quarters although other units of the 95th Gds. Rifle Div., of which the regiment was a part, did participate in extensive summer training. The artillery units would go to a special training area in ALLENSTEIG N 48-41, E 15-19 for two weeks in June and three to five weeks in the fall of each year. [redacted] no details regarding this area or the training involved and had no information on training on a higher level than that just described.

The rest of the 7th Co., 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. had the following daily schedule:

0600	Reveille
0615	Physical training
0630	Personal cleaning
0700	Breakfast
0730	Formation and roll call
0800-1400	Training in items listed in subpar A.1.a.
1400	Dinner
1430	Compulsory rest
1630-1830	Lectures
1830	Rest
2100	Supper
2230	Roll call, evening stroll
2300	Taps

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This schedule was applicable daily except Sunday. Sunday was spent in rest and cleaning of personal equipment. [redacted] the duty roster operated for the selection of personnel to man the check points on the border. Other duty such as fatigue, interior guard, kitchen detail, etc., was assigned by the company first sergeant.

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4. Platoon leaders, under the supervision of the company commander, were responsible for the military training. Radio training in the 3rd Bn. was under the supervision of Sr. Lt. Nikolay GRISHAYEV, the leader of the signal platoon of the 3rd Bn.

Political lectures were given by Lt. (fnu) ZEMSKOV, political officer of the 7th Co., 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt.

5. Training inspections conducted were stated in subpar A.1., above. Radio operators, once a year, had spot checks on their efficiency in Morse code conducted by signal officers of the 95th Gds. Rifle Div. The last such check on radio operators was in the fall of 1952.

6. Training deficiencies found by higher headquarters were:

- a. Poor political orientation
- b. Poor marksmanship
- c. Equipment in poor condition
- d. Poor knowledge of tactics
- e. Low morale of EM.

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[redacted] no knowledge of any corrections of the above-mentioned deficiencies. [redacted] battalion and regimental officers usually forwarded good efficiency ratings of the units so as to cover themselves against accusations that they did not give the units sufficient training.

7. [redacted] the following specialized training:

- a. Air-ground support
- b. Identification of friendly units
- c. Artillery support
- d. Use of new anti-tank weapons
- e. Tank-infantry cooperation by day or night
- f. Concerning new weapons, he heard from old soldiers that the USSR was developing an anti-personnel rocket called "Vanyushka". It was similar to the German World War II guided missiles. He heard no further details concerning this rocket.

8. [redacted] the following knowledge on training:

- a. Large scale motor moves - no information
- b. Command Post Exercise - no information

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- c. Engineer bridging operations - no information
- d. Officer and NCO leadership instruction - no information
- e. Passive air defense - no information
- f. About once a year, usually at 0400 hours, an alert was sounded in the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. EM were supposed to fall out within five to eight minutes after the alert sounded, fully equipped with weapons, ammunition, mess kit, gas mask, and emergency rations. All these items, except weapons and ammunition, were stored on individual shelves in the arms room. Emptying the shelves and drawing a weapon and ammunition was accomplished in about three minutes. After getting this equipment, EM fell into formation, were marched three to five kilometers, and then returned to their barracks. An alert, including the above phases, usually lasted from two to three hours.
- g. Political orientation emphasized that the Soviet Army had to be prepared at all times to defend the USSR and all "Peoples' Democracies" from the warmongering USA and British governments. In 1953 the lectures stressed that the USA was high-pressuring the small European nations into joining an aggressive block aimed against the USSR. In 1951-52 all soldiers' newspapers were full of cartoons and editorials blaming the USA for bacteriological warfare in Korea.
- h. Information on chemical warfare training was published as [redacted]
- i. Defense against atomic bombing - no information.
- j. Theoretically, the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. was supposed to have two weeks of night training in March. Actually, no night training was conducted. For about eight or nine days in March reveille was at 0500 hours instead of 0600 and this earlier reveille was the "night training". The schedule during night training time was the same as given in subpar A.3, above, advancing the schedule by one hour. Taps was at 2200 hours.
- k. Airborne operations - no information.
- l. He was at no time during his service instructed on "living off the country" in combat.
- m. He did not know how much training a unit received before being considered combat-ready.
- n. [redacted] did not know what factors determined combat readiness.
- o. [redacted] fired only a carbine during his entire military service and received no familiarization firing with weapons other than the one he was armed with. He fired three rounds from both a prone and sitting position at a bull's eye target, at a distance of 100 meters. Four rounds were fired at 200 m. at silhouette targets, and 12 rounds (three at a time) were fired, while standing in a trench, at silhouette targets 150 m. away.

NCOs and officers fired all small weapons, pistols, carbines, SMGs, LMGs and HMGs but he could give no details on the firing.

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9. The 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. conducted, annually, an NCO school which lasted from nine to eleven months. About 200 EM attended each course. He did not know the details of the instructing staff but subjects covered were: infantry tactics, marksmanship, weapon nomenclature and stripping, leadership and training of privates. Upon graduation from the NCO school, the students were assigned to their old unit.

50X1 [redacted] there was a seven months OCS in the Soviet Zone of Austria. He knew no details as to the location of this school. He did know that OCS graduates were not reassigned to their former units upon completion of the course.

Duties of the first sergeant were: supervision of all company functions (housekeeping duties, guard rosters, duty roster, training attendance), issuing of supplies, ammunition, daily inspection of the men and equipment, discipline, welfare and punishment of EM for minor offenses (up to three days in the guardhouse).

10. Basic training given to EM in the USSR and the Soviet Zone of Austria consisted of learning regulations, the manual, discipline, close order drill, extended order drill, rights and privileges of others, bayonet practice, and nomenclature and stripping of small arms.

B. SUMMER TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

50X1 [redacted] no knowledge of summer training and maneuvers.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Military information

- 50X1 a. During [redacted] stay in the Soviet Zone of Austria ([redacted] 50X1 [redacted] he saw no dependents of officers in the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt.

- b. He knew of no policies or explanations concerning dependents.

- c. During off-duty hours, officers could go into Austrian towns, but were forbidden to go into bars, cafes, theaters, movies, public museums and private homes. They could go into stores for purchasing only - not for conversation or fraternization.

EM were not permitted out of barracks except in formation under an officer escort. On the border the policy was more liberal. EM were not watched as rigidly because of a shortage of officers.

- d. Actually, the restrictions mentioned above were disobeyed by officers and EM. Since all violations were done secretly he could not give the percentage of violators, but stated that all officers drank heavily and many of them fraternized.

EM always managed to get out of their compounds through connivance with friendly gate guards or by jumping the fence. Fraternization was possible only between 2100 hours (supper-time) and 2245 (evening roll call). After 2245 there was a bedcheck at various hours, sometimes every hour. Before 2100 hours men would be easily missed.

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Certain categories of EM - drivers, cooks, members of athletic teams and bands, those running errands for officers, EM of headquarters and housekeeping units - always managed to drink and fraternize while they were supposed to be out on official duties.

A frequently used and seldom detected trick [] 50X1 for evading bedcheck was to put a gas mask and field equipment under a blanket to simulate a sleeping man.

The penalty for being absent without leave was not severe. For the first two or three offenses it was ten days' confinement in the guardhouse.

- e. Soviet officers were authorized two months' annual leave. This was to be taken all at once and travel time was counted within the two months. Leave could not be taken to anywhere but the USSR.

EM were supposedly allowed up to ten days compassionate leave for death in the family, but in the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., EM hardly ever received any type leave.

- f. Of the 750 EM in the 3rd Bn., four received ten-day leaves in 1952 for good political study. The percentage of leaves granted officers was not known [] 50X1

- g. While officers received regular leaves, EM were entitled to leaves only on the basis of meritorious performance of duty.

- h. [] there was no individual to whom EM could complain about lack of leaves.

- i. Specific instances of bad discipline known [] are as follows: 50X1

- (1) An average of ten EM and an unknown number of officers were confined each day to the regimental stockade of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. in MAUER OEHLING.

There were two types of stockade confinement - severe arrest and light arrest. Severe arrest, which was for EM only, consisted of one day's solitary confinement on a regular diet, alternated with one day of solitary confinement on bread and cold water. Men under severe arrest did no work.

Men sentenced to light arrest were placed in groups of five to ten in a 6 x 6 m. room. They performed ten hours' hard labor (cleaning up garbage, digging latrines, etc.). They were served the food which was given other EM.

In both light and severe arrest, men could not smoke or read books and papers. They were taken to the toilet under guard. They had a cot in their cell only from 2300 to 0700 hours.

Officers received only light arrest. They had normal food, could read, smoke, go to the toilet without a guard, were given no work and had cots in their cells all day.

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- (2) Drinking was prevalent in the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. on the part of all officers and those EM who could afford it.

- (3) [] heard that in 1950 three EM [] had VD. Because of the extreme secrecy and the punishment involved for fraternization, exact figures were unknown. 50X1

- (4) In the fall of 1952, the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. was being hustled in preparation for the annual inspection. The men, after being driven from 0700 to 2300 for several days, were told to attend a movie in MAUER OEHLING in the evening. Upon being seated in the theater, the political officer announced that before the show he would give a short orientation lecture. Thereupon, all EM rose as one and walked out despite threats. While milling around outside, officers assured the EM that no speeches would be made but that the movie would be shown. About 35% returned to the movie; 65% did not. No speech was given and the picture was shown. Nothing further was done about this incident. On the contrary, the officers relieved the pressure on all training.

In June 53, 21 radio operators, engaged in an assembly (sbor) (see subpar A.1.d. above) refused to fall out for their evening roll call and walk. [] another man were singled out for punishment and sentenced to 10 days' arrest. After two days in the stockade, they were freed. 50X1

In the 7th Co., 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., EM frequently refused to carry out work details (fixing automobiles, cleaning barracks, digging latrines, etc.), stating that they worked too hard and did not get enough sleep.

The CQ of the 7th Co., on one occasion in the spring of 1953, was served cold food after completing his tour as CQ. He refused to eat it and refused to return to his work until he had been given hot food, despite a direct order by the CO. The CQ won the argument and was not punished. The CO was afraid that it would reflect upon his leadership if he reported the incident.

- (5) He knew of no recent, specific orders by higher headquarters which called attention to breaches of discipline.

J. [] the following examples, indicating a low state of morale:

- (1) In 1949 an EM of the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., committed suicide. Reason and details were unknown.
- (2) In the fall of 1952 an unknown officer of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. committed suicide, reason and details unknown.

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- (3) In the spring of 1953 the chief of ordnance of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., a captain, name unknown, shot himself. Reason and details were unknown.
- (4) One EM of the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., maimed himself in 1952 by shooting his left hand. In 1952, an EM of the 290th Regtl. Hq. shot himself in the left foot. In a public regimental trial, both EM received a prison sentence of eight years and were returned to the USSR.
- (5) He knew of no specific desertions, but stated that in the fall of 1952 and the spring of 1953 all border guards were alerted to detain Soviet troops who had deserted. He could give no number, names, or other details.

50X1 [] gave the following points as factors causing low morale:

- (a) Too much political orientation
- (b) Too much restriction
- (c) No female contacts
- (d) Prohibition on the drinking of beer and alcoholic beverages.
- (e) Letter censorship
- (f) Lack of leaves
- (g) Exceptionally low pay. Forty shillings, the equivalent of six rubles, is the amount paid to Soviet privates and PFCs in the Soviet Zone of Austria.

50X1 k. [] did not resent any privileges given to officers, nor did he hear of other EM resenting any officer privileges. He gave as a reason for this, the fact that officers signed up for life and were career men.

1. Medical care for EM was very unsatisfactory. Men who became ill were accused by their CO of pretending to be ill in order to shun work. The CO of the 7th Co., 3rd Bn., ordered more PT to prevent "illness". [] due to this attitude and the "red tape" involved a man had to be a stretcher case before getting medical attention. 50X1

Food, too, was unsatisfactory. There was never enough food and it was very poorly prepared.

He thought the recreation was satisfactory. The PX sold food, cigarettes and many necessities but the EM had no money to purchase these items.

- m. 50X1 [] claimed that EM in the Soviet Army desired to get out and were not interested in promotion. He stated that NCOs were yelled at by the officers, hated by the privates, had great responsibilities and no great increase in pay. He had no information on officer promotions.

- n. Details on the percentage of Soviet troops returned to the USSR before the expiration of their normal tour of duty were given in [] 50X1

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- o. There were no air raid shelters, blackouts, or air defense training in the villages of the Ukraine. He did not know if such precautions were taken in the towns of the USSR.

2. Additional T/O & E Data

- a. The 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. had four pairs of horses to haul garbage, food, coal, etc. One wagon and team was at regimental headquarters, one wagon and team was at second battalion, and two wagons and teams were at third battalion. 50X1
- b. The 95th Gds. Rifle Div. had a separate signal battalion, [redacted] located at ST POELTEN N 48-12, E 15-387. This signal battalion conducted a school in wire-laying, radio operation, and Morse code for all signal personnel of the 95th Gds. Rifle Div. The signal battalion also operated the switchboards of all battalions, regiments and separate units of the 95th Gds. Rifle Div. He could not give the T/O & E of this battalion. He did know that it had one radio company, one cable-wire-laying company and one headquarters company. It had RBM-1s, and RB radio stations, and also one US made CR radio station.

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